



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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15 JANUARY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. Vietnam

Hanoi has joined Moscow in releasing the communique on the Shelepin trip to Hanoi.

There are new signs that Shelepin failed to resolve any of the differences with Hanoi which existed before the visit. In their leading press editorial today, the North Vietnamese are beginning to put words in Shelepin's mouth--trying to leave the impression that he came out "vehemently" against recent US peace efforts. In fact, this theme was pointedly avoided in publicized versions of Shelepin's remarks.

The Hanoi commentary today also made a studied effort to balance its praise for Soviet support with equally warm words for assistance from Peiping.

US officials in Saigon reaffirm that, despite recent US news reporting to the contrary, there is still no evidence whatsoever of Chinese Communist observers serving in Viet Cong units.

2. India

Congress Party parliamentarians are scheduled to vote on Shastri's successor next Wednesday.

Their vote may be a mere formality, ratifying the choice of party bigwigs.

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Defense Minister Chavan and former finance minister Desai seem still to be in the running. Either could make a strong showing if the party chiefs fail to find a consensus and a real choice is left to the parliamentarians.

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3. Nigeria

This morning army elements moved to take over the federal capital at Lagos and the principal regional centers.

In the process, a number of top leaders were killed, including Ahmadu Bello, the head of the present ruling party and probably the most powerful man in the country. Premier Balewa was put under guard.

The move was probably triggered by army unhappiness at the persisting turmoil in the country's Western Region and the strong measures it had been called upon to take there.

The prime movers seem to have been from the non-Muslim South--long at odds with the Muslim North.

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The outcome is still in doubt.

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Whatever the outcome, today's events do seem likely to sharpen the North-South rivalry and in the longer term increase the chances for a breakup of the present federation.

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The moderate Nigerian voice in African councils will probably be stilled while these domestic problems are being sorted out.

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4. Ghana

5. Rhodesia

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Sanctions applied so far are hurting but have not yet resulted in any substantial reduction in the support given Smith.

Unemployment and underemployment have risen but are still not great in terms of the total number of workers, nor has any African dissidence resulted. In any case, serious unemployment would be felt first among Zambian and Malawian migrant laborers. The Smith regime should be able to cope with a higher level than now exists.

There are also no strong indications that the economic problems resulting from independence have yet generated any disillusionment among Europeans, except for certain business, educational, and religious leaders whose influence on the Smith government is still limited.

Most Rhodesian whites are incensed over the extent of the economic sanctions already imposed by Prime Minister Wilson. They expect no solution of the Rhodesian problem from Wilson short of early rule by the African majority.

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6. Dominican Republic An uneasy calm prevails.

Caamano and his party have not yet left. Apparently the disposition of his armed followers is still a sticking point. Ambassador Bunker believes that the departure could come soon.

Brazil is sending General Braga to replace Alvim as the commander of the Inter-American Peace Force. He is to arrive in Santo Domingo Monday.

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